

JUNE 1981

NEWSLETTER
Vol. IV
No. 5

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY JUNE 13, 1PM
FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 6th & HERR STS.,
HARRISBURG

WORKSESSIONS

At our May meeting the various worksessions reported on their progress, and further direction was given. The Pride '82 worksession reported that the only response for Co-Sponsor of the conference came from the Erie Gay Task Force. It was anticipated that more responses would be forthcoming because of the late mailing. At the June meeting the Network will make final determination for the time and location of Pride '82 and commence the development of the conference. The Media worksession should have a letter ready at the June meeting to mail to all organizations in Penna. explaining the Network and it's endeavors. The worksession will mail ads to all appropriate press soliciting membership and donations. It was felt that the logical progression of this worksession will be to examine fund raising for the Network. The Legislative worksession has progressed well in developing it's Legislative Guide. Many of the elements should be ready at our June meeting; then we can begin to determine how to print and distribute the Guide. It would be logical for this worksession to assume the work of developing legislative strategies and statewide networks for action and response. We hope to see many of you at our June meeting to continue the valuable development of these worksessions.

DAY LONG SEMINAR IN PHILADELPHIA

Don't forget the "Lesbians and Gay Men Facing the Law" seminar sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, American Civil Liberties Union and the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities in Philadelphia on 6 June. The conference will feature Kay Whitlock, well known feminist and Lesbian/Gay Rights activist for the National Gay Task Force. A cast of expert workshop leaders will conduct sessions on the legal issues surrounding Employment, Relationships, Parenting, Social Services, Police and the Courts, Health Care and Young Lesbians and Gay Men. The new ACLU Handbook, Lesbians and Gay Men: The Law in Pennsylvania will be released at the conference. Registration is \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door which includes lunch and resource materials. The conference will be held at the Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia on Saturday 6 June from

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(clip and mail to: PL/GSN PO Box 822, Federal Square Station, Harrisburg, Pa. 17108)

- () I am enclosing \$20 for a one year subscription to the Newsletter and membership.
() I am enclosing \$12 suggested hardship or student membership and the Newsletter.
() I would like to support the Network with a contribution.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

(make check payable to PL/GSN-All information will be kept confidential)

9AM to 5PM. For more information call Kathleen O'Donnell, Coordinator at 215-241-7119 (AFSC).

DRUG AND ALCOHOL

The Pennsylvania Drug & Alcohol Summer Institute will be conducting two one day sessions on Lesbians and Gays; Their Addiction and Treatment in Pennsylvania. The sessions will be at Elizabethtown College on Tuesday or Friday 20 & 21 August. PERSAD Counseling Center in Pittsburgh will be developing these sessions. For further details please contact Rodger 717-783-7803. Last years sessions were cancelled due to lack of participants.

ERA COUNTDOWN ACTIVITIES

Many progressive organizations are joining with the Pennsylvania National Organization for Women in activities that recognize the start of the last year for ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. ERA Countdown rallies and other events are scheduled across the state for June 30. Check with the NOW Chapters nearest to you for their plans and how you and your groups can become involved. Both Network Chairs have been asked to participate in planning and publicizing the Harrisburg Countdown rally on Tuesday 30 June, 7:30PM at the Harrisburg Civic Club, Front & North Streets. We all have only until June 30, 1982 to see that the ERA is ratified. Let's do our part during this entire year.

KKK MEETINGS

A recent meeting of the KKK was conducted in York County, just 30 miles from Harrisburg. The poorly attended meeting of 30 individuals included the Central Pennsylvania exalted cyclops, Albert Lentz and Pennsylvania imperial wizzard George Houser of Philadelphia. Several speeches were followed by the burning of a 12 foot cross. In a related issue State Representative Edward Wiggins of South Philadelphia has introduced a resolution co-sponsored by 13 Representatives, including the entire Black Caucus, asking for a House investigation into Klan activities in the state. Wiggins

stated, "Klan activity is definetly on the rise in Pennsylvania and I think we need to let them know that we in the House do not look on their activities favorably."

GAY PRIDE DAY

Sunday 28 June is Gay Pride Day in New York City. This is the Twelfth Anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riot and seen by contemporaries as the begining of Lesbian/Gay Activitsm. A march will commence at noon from Christopher Street in the Village. The street will have plenty of vendors and other activities following the march which will end in Central Park with speeches.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

On Tuesday 19 May the Pennsylvania Primary elections were held. The Network focused it's attention on the statewide Judicial elections. We had decided with our state of organization that it would not be wise to get too significantly involved with the many city races. If any elections for the Fall appear to be worthy of involvment or we are invited to become involved we will do so.

Two Supreme Court Justices will be elected for ten years this Fall. This is the highest judicial authority in Penna. with seven Justices with the Chief Justice being the Justice with the longest continuous service on the Court. The Fall ballot will contain Republicans James McDermont and William Hutchinson. No information is avaiable at this writing on McDermont. State Representative Hutchinson represented Schuylkill County for thr past eight years. The 48 year old attorney has a 1957 Harvard Law Degree. Democrats chose S.L. Farino and Robert Colville. Judge Farino has sat on the Allegheny County Common Pleas Court since 1975. The 50 year old Judge has a 1958 George Washington University Law Degree. Judge Farino is also backed by Al Benedict and the State Democratic Committee. Attorney Colville is District Attorney of Allegheny County. He has previously served as Pittsburgh Police Chief and was the prosecutor in the recent Cyril Wecht, County Commissioner, misuse of funds case when he was County Coroner. The 45 year old attorney has a Duquesne University Law Degree.

Feur Superior Court Judges will be elected for ten years this Fall. This is an intermediate Appellate Court established to reduce the workload of the Supreme Court. The Superior Court has 15 Judges. The Fall ballot will list Republicans John McLane, James Rowley, Vincent Cirillo, Perry Shertz, Stephen McEwen, Donald Wieand, Peter Olszewski, and Richard DiSalle. All of these candidates were cross filed with the Democratic ticket. John McLane is a 32 year old atrorney from Scranton and was a registered Concientuous Objector. Judge Rowley has been a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County since 1966. The 55 year old Judge has a good rating from the Penna. NOW. Judge Cirillo is Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County for nine years. The 53 year old Judge has a Temple University Law Degree.

Judge Shertz was appointed to the Superior Court in 1980 and is now an incumbant candidate. The 52 year old Judge has a Temple University Law Degree. Attorney McEwen is a 48 year old trial and appellate lawyer from Drexel Hills. He has a Univ. of Penn. Law Degree. Judge Wieand is also an incumbant candidate having served the Superior Court for two years. The 54 year old Allentown resident a Law Degree from Dickinson Law School. He also has a good rating from Penna. NOW. Judge DiSalle is also an incumbant. The 48 year old McMurray resident has a University of Pittsburgh Law Degree. Judge Olszewski has been a Trial Judge for 14 years in Luzerne County. The 55 year old Wilkes Barre resident has a Law Degree from St. John's Law.

One Commonwealth Court Judge will be elected for ten years. This Court consists of nine Judges and hears cases relating to the state and local governments as well as discrimination cases carried to it by the Penna. Human Relations Commission. The Fall ballot will list Republicans Joseph Doyle and Madaline Palladino. Both Candidates have cross filed on the Democratic Ticket. Judge Palladino was apponted to the Commonwealth Court in 1980. The 56 year old Allentown resident has a Univ. of Penn. Law Degree and is highly rated by Penna. NOW. Attorney Doyle was a State Represntative for eight years. The 49 year old Alden resident has a Villanova Univ. Law Degree.

We hope to develop a more comprehensive issue oriented guide on candidates running in the General Election.

DUES DUE

We have recently reviewed our records to update our mailing list. With the increase in postage and other costs of developing the Newsletter we need to keep the membership current and active. Once we become more politically active we will be having media mailings, response mailings etc. The expense of printing our guides will also be approaching soon. When your membership is due we will insert a reminder in with the Newsletter. We certainly hope that you will like to continue to support the work of the Network.

STATE LEGISLATION

Both HB 500 and 1036 remain in the Judiciary Committee. They will most likely remain there; however if action appears imminent we will keep you posted. The Legislature is more concerned with the passage of a State Budget prior to the end of June.